

Claims

1. A method of transporting semi-processed rubber, the method comprising
locating the semi-processed rubber in a ship and supplying heat to the semi-
5 processed rubber during transit to prevent solidification of, and/or crystallisation
in, the semi-processed rubber.
2. A method according to Claim 1, comprising supplying sufficient heat to the
semi-processed rubber to maintain its temperature above 25 °C, most
10 preferably in a range of from 28 to 35 °C, and even more preferably in a range
of from 30 to 33 °C.
3. A method according to Claim 1 or 2, comprising circulating heat from the ship's
engine and circulating to heat the semi-processed rubber.
- 15 4. A method according to Claim 3, comprising circulating the water which is drawn
through the engine to cool it to heat the semi-processed rubber.
5. A method according to any preceding Claim, comprising using a heat
20 exchanger to heat circulating air, the heated air being circulated into the hold of
the ship where the semi-processed rubber is stored for transport.
6. A method according to Claim 1 or 2, comprising heating the rubber using
convention heaters, for example electrical convection heaters or blowers may
25 be used.

7. A method according to any preceding Claim, comprising providing insulating material between the semi-processed rubber and at least one wall of a hold in which the semi-processed rubber is stored for transport.
- 5 8. A method according to Claim 7, comprising inflating a collapsible bag or bladder to provide the insulating material.
9. A method according to any preceding Claim, further comprising storing the semi-processed rubber in a covered warehouse or storage facility at a
10 departure and/or destination port, the warehouse preferably being maintained at a temperature sufficient to prevent the rubber from hardening and/or crystallising during storage.
10. A method according to any preceding Claim, further comprising transporting the
15 semi-processed rubber to a user in a state which is usable without requiring further heating.
11. A method of supplying semi-processed rubber to a user in a usable form, the method comprising tapping latex from a rubber tree, forming a cake,
20 transporting the cake to a local processor for semi-processing and subsequently transporting the semi-processed rubber cake to a user and ensuring that the cake does not harden or that crystals form in the cake during the first and/or second transportation step.
- 25 12. A method of transporting solid goods whose state is prone to alter during transportation, the method comprising maintaining the goods at a temperature

of from 25 to 35 °C during transportation by supplying heated air to the goods using heat reclaimed from the prime mover of the means of transportation.

13. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the goods are semi-processed rubber.

14. A method according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein at least part of said transportation takes place on a ship and said transportation means is a ship.

15. A method of supplying semi-processed rubber to a user, the method comprising storing the semi-processed rubber at a location which is maintained at a temperature to prevent or at least inhibit the hardening of, or formation of crystals in, the semi-processed rubber.

16. A method according to Claim 15, comprising maintaining the temperature of the location at or above 24°C.